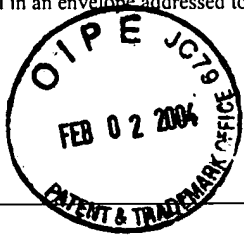


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

On 1-28-04



TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Raven Karlin

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 021044-008020US
Client Ref. No.: P.0005.03.US.UT.C02.LE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael G. Katze et al.

Application No.: 09/972,756

Filed: October 5, 2001

For: NOVEL SCREENING METHODS
TO IDENTIFY AGENTS THAT
SELECTIVELY INHIBIT HEPATITIS C
VIRUS REPLICATION

Examiner: Vogel, Nancy T.

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1636

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the first Office Action mailed October 2, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A petition to extend the time for response one month, from January 2, 2004 to February 2, 2004, is submitted herewith. A terminal disclaimer is also submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

02/06/2004 BARRAH1 00000006 201430 09972756

01 FC:2251 55.00 DA